5

## **ABSTRACT**

A method and apparatus for measuring signals conveyed by a varying polarity voltage signal across a tip and ring in a telephone system is disclosed. A voltage present across the tip and ring is used to charge a charge storage device, and the charge is periodically discharged for a relatively short amount of time. The burst of discharge current for the short amount of time allows an optocoupler to accurately operate, while presenting a very high impedance to the telephone line.